



## The Building Block of Love

### Week of June 13, 2021

#### Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *Optional Question - What did God reveal to you this past week in the Bible Reading Plan last week?*
- *Intro Question - Have you ever wanted to speak truth to someone, but chickened out? Share an example, either humorous or serious.*

#### Read Bible Study Summary:

Love is the stabilizing force that unites the body of Christ. Loving Jesus includes loving his teachings, his commandments, and the Leadership of his Holy Spirit. When we love his Word, study his Word, and obey his Word, we will not be tossed about with every wind of doctrine that comes along. In the Body of Christ, we may not agree on every point of doctrine, but we should be united in the major foundational truths of scripture.. If Jesus taught it directly or through divinely inspired scripture written by his apostles, then we should let that be a point of unity in our relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### Main Scripture

- *Read Ephesians 4:13-16*

#### Why is love such an important building block for relationships?

##### 1. Love Compels Us to Speak Truth (4:13-15)

- Jesus wants his church to become in every respect a mature body as we live as his royal ambassadors to the world. So, as the family of God, we don't just overlook problems and difficulties, or turn a blind eye to sin. Instead, we are to be very honest and willing to expose issues and problems within the body of Christ, but this must be done in love.
- By speaking truth in love, we are trusting the Spirit of Christ to bring conviction, discipline, and correction to the members of the Body of Christ. Sometimes speaking the truth in love takes the form of encouragement. It's not too hard to find ways to encourage others, but we may fail to give encouragement either because we are too busy or we are just lazy. Sometimes speaking the truth in love takes the form of exhortation. In other words, our appeal to someone may have a sense of urgency

and may need to be spoken in a more direct way to get their attention, but it should always be done in love.

- **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3** - *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*
- **Ask Questions**
  - *Can you give a testimony of an experience when someone shared the truth in love to you? What was your initial reaction? How could you tell that it was loving? How did you respond?*
  - *In what ways have you spoken the truth in love to help build up another person in the body of Christ? What was their response? What was the result?*

## 2. Love Builds the Church Through Action (4:16)

- We can't just say we love one another, we've got to show that we love one another by our actions. In a song called "Hypocrisy" by Pastor Larry, he wrote, "You say you love each other and I want to believe that it's true, but I've got this conflict between what you say and what you do!"
- Sometimes we may speak of our love for others, but fail to show our love through our actions. This failure can present itself in a couple of ways. Sometimes it's what we do that shows our love for others, while on the other hand, it may be things we don't do that show our love for others.
  - **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-6** *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*
  - **Ask Questions**
    - *Which of the actions in these verses do you find most difficult to exemplify when you are sharing truth to others? Why?*
    - *Who is someone in your life right now that needs to hear the truth of God? A friend, or a family member? How can you ensure that your actions represent Christ's love for you when you share?*

## Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.